

REMARKS

The indication that claims 17 - 21 are allowed and claims 9, 10, 13 and 14 are objected to and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is acknowledged.

By the present amendment, claims 9 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form incorporating the features of parent claim 1 therein with claim 1 being canceled such that claims 9 - 10 should now be in condition for allowance. Additionally, dependent claims 3 - 8 which depended directly or indirectly from claim 1 have been amended to depend from claim 9 such that claims 3 - 10, as amended should now be in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, claims 13 and 14 which have been objected to have been written in independent form incorporating the features of parent claim 11 therein with claim 11 being canceled such that claims 13 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form and should now be in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 12 and 15, which previously depended upon claim 11, have been amended to depend from allowable claim 13 and should be considered allowable therewith and claim 16 has been canceled.

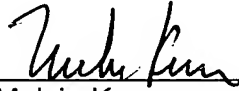
As to the rejection of claims 1, 3 - 5, 7 - 8, 11 - 12 and 15 - 16 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tachibana et al (JP 3-37437) in view of Miyata (US Patent No. 6,271,965) and further in view of Miyata (US Patent No. 6,745,288) such rejection is considered to be obviated by the cancellation of claims 1, 11 and 16 and the amendment of the other claims to depend from an allowable claim. Accordingly, discussion of the cited art in relation to the rejected claims is considered unnecessary.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that all claims remaining in this application, i.e., claims 3 - 10, 12 - 15 and 17 - 21 should now stand allowed and issuance of an action of a favorable nature is courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 520.37710CC2), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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